

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC:	High School Graduations 2007	ITEM NO:	4H
PREPARED BY:	André A. Nougaret, Interim Superintendent	MEETING:	September 12, 2006
	Valerie Cottongim, Public Information Officer	ACTION DATE:	September 26, 2006
		INFORMATION ONLY:	N/A

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT:

That the School Board receive information regarding off-site 2007 high school graduation survey results and provide direction regarding any additional information necessary to facilitate a decision on September 26, 2006.

KEY POINTS:

- ❖ The School Board has previously received information regarding off-site graduations. (See attached agenda items from March 14, 2006 and June 20, 2006.)
- ❖ A survey (see attached) was conducted during July and August. The evaluation of surveys completed on-line is attached. The survey was sent to the parents of 4051 rising juniors and seniors in attendance at all 5 of the county's high schools. There were 577 surveys returned in hard copy and 443 surveys answered on line for a response rate of 25.17 percent.

Of the 443 responses to the online survey:

77.7 percent of the respondents answered yes to the question "Would you prefer that graduation ceremonies be held at a site other than the high schools?"

83.7 percent of the respondents answered yes to the question "Would you support off-site graduation if senior class dues increased by \$10 to cover any additional costs for a larger graduation venue?"

64.1 percent of the respondents answered "I would not have a problem with one-level seating" in response to a question regarding the seating at the Expo Center.

The on-line response rate was equally distributed among the five high schools with approximately 20 percent of the respondents from each school.

Of the 577 paper responses to the survey:

70 percent of the respondents answered yes to the question "Would you prefer that graduation ceremonies be held at a site other than the high schools?"

80 percent of the respondents answered yes to the question "Would you support off-site graduation if senior class dues increased by \$10 to cover any additional costs for a larger graduation venue?"

58.9 percent of the respondents answered "I would not have a problem with one-level seating" in response to a question regarding the seating at the Expo Center.

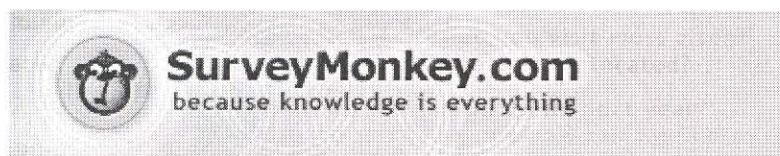
Of those responding on paper, 19 percent were from Brooke Point, 21 percent were from Colonial Forge, 22 percent were from Mountain View, 16 percent were from North Stafford and 22 percent were from Stafford High.

- ❖ Meetings to discuss this issue with the student leadership at each high school will be held prior to the next School Board meeting.
- ❖ Should the School Board approve off-site graduations for the 2006-2007 school year, this process would be considered a pilot project and will be evaluated to determine continuation in following years.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL(S): (Goal 4) Address the impact of continuing population growth by developing plans to address expanding staff, facilities, transportation, attendance zones, and instruction. (Goal 3) Encourage parents and the community to increase their interest and involvement in schools

FUNDING SOURCE: School Operating and Student Fees

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: Policy 7-26 Graduation
February 2006

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Thursday, September 07, 2006

Results Summary [Show All Pages and Questions](#)[Export...](#)[View Detail >>](#)**Filter Results**

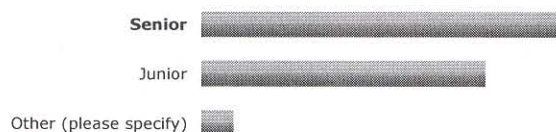
To analyze a subset of your data, you can create one or more filters.

[Add Filter...](#)**Total:** 443**Visible:** 443**Share Results**

Your results can be shared with others, without giving access to your account.

[Configure...](#)**Status:** Enabled**Reports:** Summary and Detail**1. Graduation Ceremonies**

1. For the 2006-2007 school year, what grade level is your student?

[View](#)

Response Percent	Response Total
56.7%	250
44.2%	195
5.4%	24

Total Respondents 441

(skipped this question) 2

2. Which high school does your child attend?



Response Percent	Response Total
22%	97
17.9%	79
20.6%	91
19.7%	87
19.7%	87

Total Respondents 441

(skipped this question) 2

3. Are you aware of the graduation process in Stafford County Public Schools?





Response Percent	Response Total
85.9%	379
14.1%	62

Total Respondents 441
(skipped this question) 2



4. Are you aware of the ticket limitations for graduations held in the gymnasiums of the high schools?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	93.7%	414
No 	6.3%	28
Total Respondents		442
(skipped this question)		1



5. Do you believe the graduation ceremonies should be held at the individual high schools?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	24.7%	108
No 	75.3%	330
Total Respondents		438
(skipped this question)		5

6. Would you prefer that graduation ceremonies be held at a site other than the high schools?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	77.7%	344
No 	22.3%	99
Total Respondents		443
(skipped this question)		0

7. Would your answer to the last question change if the graduation ceremony were to be held at the Fredericksburg Expo and Convention Center in Central Park?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	11.7%	51
No 	88.3%	385
Total Respondents		436
(skipped this question)		7

8. Would you support off-site graduation if senior class dues increased by \$10 to cover any additional costs for a larger graduation venue?

	Response Percent	Response Total
Yes 	83.7%	371
No 	16.3%	72

Total Respondents	443
(skipped this question)	0

9. Would you consider having graduation in a venue where all seating was on one level (no bleachers or risers) as a negative? [All graduates would cross an elevated stage to receive their diplomas.]

	Response Percent	Response Total
I would have a problem with one-level seating.	35.9%	158
I would not have a problem with one-level seating	64.1%	282
Total Respondents		440
(skipped this question)		3

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STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: 2007 Off-Site High School
Graduation

ITEM NO.: 10L

PREPARED BY: Jean S. Murray,
Superintendent

MEETING: June 20, 2006

MEETING: March 14, 2006

ACTION DATE: August 22, 2006

INFORMATION ONLY: N/A

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT: That the School Board approve holding high school graduations on June 14 and 15, 2007 at the Fredericksburg Expo Center.

KEY POINTS:

- Since first presenting this graduation change to the School Board for discussion on March 14, 2006, staff has continued discussion with Sam Voisin at the Expo Center and with the high school principals;
- The attached facility estimate for \$31,976.00 itemizes the expenses of using the Expo Center. The school division will provide a portable stage and ramps. The Expo Center will provide stage and backdrop drapes and stage greenery. We will provide flowers and bows colored for each school.
- The general operating budget includes \$4,000 per high school for graduation expenses. The difference of \$11,976.00 will be generated through the \$10 increase in senior fees included in another agenda item this evening.
- Graduation dates and times will be as follows and timeslots will be through lottery:
Thursday, June 14 – 1:30, 4:30, 7:30 and
Friday, June 15 – 1:30, 4:30
- A survey is being mailed to the parents of all current juniors and sophomores during the week of June 19-23. Parents have the option of completing the survey online or returning via mail or fax. The results of the survey will be included with staff's final recommendation at the August 22, 2006 School Board meeting.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL 3: Encourage parents and the community to increase their interest and involvement in schools.

FUNDING SOURCE: FY07 general operating funds for graduations, senior fees, school activity funds.

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: Policy 7-26 Graduation



Fredericksburg
Expo & Conference Center

Prepared By: S. Voisin

Graduation Option A									
No rehearsal, Graduation only									
Day	Date	Hours	Function	Location	SQ FT	Attendance	Rental	Comments	
Thursday	June 14, 2006	1p-10p	High School Graduation	Exhall A-B	80,000	3,500	\$10,500		
Friday	15-Jun	1p-6p	High School Graduation	Exhall A-B	80,000	3,500	\$10,500		
Staffing	Date	Hours	Personnel	Location	Quantity	Cost per hr			
Thursday	June 14, 2006	1p-10p	Fredericksburg Police	Exhall A-B	4	\$30	\$1,200.00	10 hours x 4 people at \$30	
Thursday	June 14, 2006	1p-10p	Floor and Restroom Attendants, event and post clean 15 hours	Exhall A-B	4	\$16.50	\$990.00	15 hours x 4 people at \$16.50	
Friday	15-Jun	1p-6p	Floor and Restroom Attendants, event and post clean 6 hours	Exhall A-B	4	\$16.50	\$396.00	6 hours x 4 people at \$16.50	
Friday	15-Jun	1p-6p	Fredericksburg Police	Exhall A-B	4	\$30	\$720.00	6 hours x 4 people at \$30	
Decorating/Internet/Other	Date		Item	Location	Quantity	Cost Per	Decorating		
Thursday, Friday			Chair Rental	Exhall A-B	3,200	\$2.25	\$7,200.00		
Thursday, Friday			Wired Microphone	Exhall A-B	1	70	\$70.00		
Thursday, Friday			Portable Sound System	Exhall A-B	1	\$200	\$400.00		
TOTAL OPTION A							\$31,976.00		

STAFFORD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

Agenda Consideration

TOPIC: 2007 Off-Site High School Graduations ITEM NO: 4F

PREPARED BY: Jean S. Murray,
Superintendent

MEETING: March 14, 2006
ACTION DATE: NA
INFORMATION ONLY: March 14, 2006

ACTION REQUESTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT: That the School Board receive for discussion information about a possible off-site 2007 high school graduation.

KEY POINTS:

- The high school principals and staff met with Sam Voisin, General Manager, Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center, to discuss the potential of holding the five 2007 high school graduations at the Expo Center.
- Holding the five graduations off-site presents both positive and negative issues:

Pros

- Families receive more tickets to the actual graduation;
- Restrooms are in the graduation hall allowing guests to leave without lockout;
- All seating on level floor allowing easier access for handicap and wheelchair guests;
- Afternoon and evening graduations can be attended by all faculty and causes less burden on Stafford County Public school employees with graduates
- Fewer traffic issues and more parking (this is believed to be so but will not know Until we see if the turnaround time works). This could be a con.
- Chairs more comfortable than bleachers.

Cons

- Graduations not held at school
- Some graduations in afternoons and some in the evening
- More expensive
- Level floor could inhibit visibility available in gym bleachers
- The Expo is not in Stafford County.

- Schedule for graduations might be Thursday, June 14, 1:30, 4:30, 7:00, and Friday, June 15, 1:30, 4:30. Days and times would be selected by lottery the first year and rotate annually.
- Potential cost could be mitigated by any combination of the following: Having each school contribute \$2,000 from their current graduation budgets; having the school division subsidize a portion of the cost; reducing costs by using school division portable stage and ramps; using the same plants and flowers for stage

decoration and changing the bows for school colors; contracting video sales for a percentage with profit returned to the school division; bidding and contracting with one photographer; saving on transport by using the same percussion instruments for the bands; increasing senior fees from \$70 to \$75 or \$80 and to \$40 or \$45 (graduation only).

- If the School Board is interested in further exploration, staff will do a direct mail to all registered high school juniors. Families will be able to respond to either an online survey or complete and return a paper and pencil survey about holding high school graduations offsite in June 2007.
- If the School Board is interested in further exploration while surveys are being completed and tallied, staff will continue communications with Mr. Voisin to calculate actual costs and conditions of rental for the afternoons of June 14 and 15, 2007 in the event we receive positive responses to this change.

SCHOOL BOARD GOAL 3: Encourage parents and the community to increase their interest and involvement in schools.

FUNDING SOURCE: School graduation funds, student fees, general operating.

AUTHORIZATION REFERENCE: Policy 7-26 Graduation

February 2006